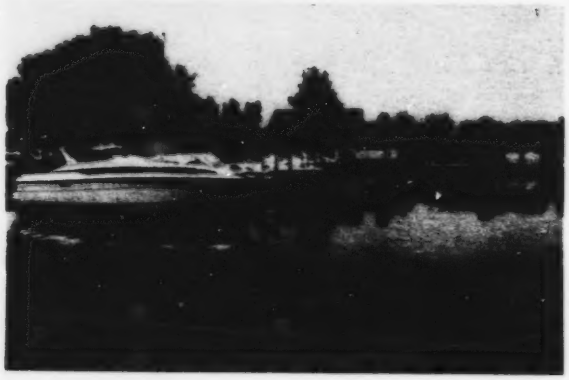
1988 Annual Report



St. Clair Parkway Commission

89-06259/

A JOINT PROGRAMME of PARKS DEVELOPMENT

by

THE PROVINCE OF ONTARIO
Lambton County, Kent County
City of Sarnia & City of Chatham

ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Aims and Objectives

PRIMARY - to ensure an interconnecting system of parks using all the environmental characteristics of the region

SECONDARY - to create a scenic drive following the route corridor (Highway 40) from Pt. Edward to Chatham

- to encourage tourism in the Parkway area

- to maintain close contact with private and public authorities controlling urban development

RECREATION TRENDS

The Commission recognizes that the trends in recreation are constantly changing; therefore, development programmes are prepared according to need and demand to ensure the most effective results

Chairman's Message

The high water conditions of two years previous were reversed in 1988 with hot dry conditions. This drastic change was obvious in the record attendance at all our facilities. Our usually busy grass crews were able to do jobs often over looked; building repairs, painting of buildings and equipment and much needed watering of new tree plantings. Our golf course staff managed to keep the course in excellent shape in spite of arid conditions. All of our staff are to be commended for their fine effort. Looking to the future, the Commission for the past two years has been diligently working toward a project for the Kent-Chatham area. The expansion of our boat berthing facilities both at Marine Park and Sarnia Bay Marina is imperative. The continued increase in popularity of golf and the recent change in the Lambton area of public courses to semi-private facilities has created the demand for expansion at the St. Clair Parkway Golf Course. We are continuing to acquire and develop parks and facilities in an attempt to keep up with the request for recreation facilities and more public access to the river and Lake St. Clair.

In this, my first year as Chairman, I am particularly honoured to report 1988 was our best year of operation. We generated from our own resources almost 60% of the funds necessary for our capital and operational expenditures.

I would like to thank the Commissioners for their responsible attitude in attending to the concerns of the Parkway, to the staff for their continued devotion to developing and maintaining our facilities to the high standards of the Commission, and to the funding municipalities and the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation for their continued co-operation, understanding, and financial support. Together we sincerely encourage everyone to come and spend a day on the Parkway.

J.D. George
Chairman

1988 Commissioners

Front Row
(L to R)

Stella Milway	Provincial
Jack George Chairman	Provincial

Back Row

Jack McPherson	Lambton
Lyle Clark	Kent
Al Brogden	Sarnia
Joe Johnston	Provincial
Wm. DeMars	Lambton
Larry O'Rourke	Chatham
Bob Harrison	Sec. Trea. /Gen. Mgr.

Absent from Photo

Margaret Stacey Vice-Chairman	Provincial
Yon Shimizu	Provincial
Mike Stark	Sarnia

New Commissioners Plant a Tree

Each year, new Commissioners plant a tree on the Parkway to commemorate their position on the St. Clair Parkway Commission. In 1988 (L to R), J. McPherson, Y. Shimizu and J.Johnston planted trees in Guthrie Park.

LAURIE WRIGHT
photo from
City of Sarnia Parks and Recreation
Annual Report 1967

"It's The Kind of Job Everyone Would Like"

Laurie Wright
Parkway Superintendent

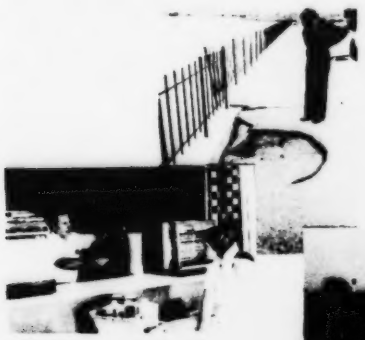
On January 1, 1989, Laurie Wright retired from the St. Clair Parkway Commission as Parkway Superintendent. It is a position Laurie has held since March, 1974. Laurie decided to take an early retirement at age 60, and has a list of activities now that includes spending more time with his son and daughter and three grandchildren, improving his wood duck carving hobby, swimming and fishing.

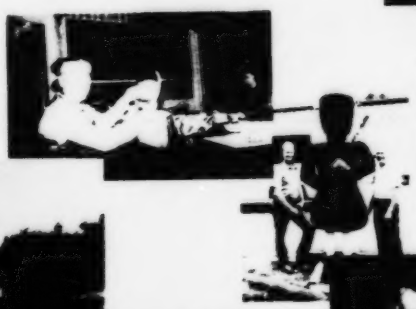
Laurie's work life was not quite as relaxing as his new activities, but he always found a great deal of satisfaction in his accomplishments. There have been many changes along the Parkway in the 14 years he was Superintendent. Without mentioning them all, a short list would feature the boat ramp at Centennial Park, the Cathcart Park campground development, and many erosion control and beautification projects along the St. Clair River from Sarnia Centennial to Brander Park.

Before coming to Sarnia, Laurie worked at the Niagara Parks Commission in the greenhouses. Here he developed his craft that would permit him to design the Germain Park Gardens in the City of Sarnia, the Children's Farm in Canatara Park in Sarnia, and constantly redesigning and beautifying the Centennial Park Gardens for our many Parkway guests.

At his retirement, Laurie stated, "There's no doubt about it, I'll miss the Parkway....."and of his work he said, "Whatever you do today will be there tomorrow, I've left a legacy for my children...."

Laurie certainly has, and the Parkway guests today and in the future are so very pleased he did !



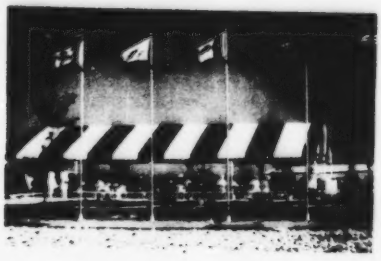


The Parkway
ST. CLAIR PARKWAY

PARKWAY PARTICULARS FOR 1988

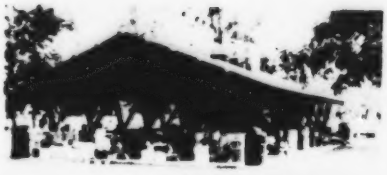
Near Perfect Score

The superb amenities of Sarnia Bay Marina were put to the test in an Ontario Marina Operators Association transient boater survey. The Marina obtained the highest guest rating of the 20 Marinas surveyed with a 4.96/5.00. Guests at Sarnia Bay Marina indicated the location, the modern facilities and the 24 hour security in their opinion were the best in the Great Lakes.



Outdoor Centre

A new covered activity centre was opened at Sarnia Bay Marina. Boating groups or local residents may book the Centre for get-togethers. Barbeques are available for added convenience. On busy summer weekends, a Continental breakfast is enjoyed by the overflow restaurant crowd.



Cathcart Shelter

With the hot and dry summer of 1988, the Commission parks and facilities were very busy. Local residents and tourists stopped at the many roadside parks to picnic under a shady tree and enjoy the view of the St. Clair River. In 1988, the picnic shelter at Cathcart Park could be reserved in advance by groups and families. This added convenience was in response to a need our guests have mentioned in recent years.

Marine Park Renovation

The restaurant at Marine Park continued to undergo renovations with new windows for extra brightness. The Marina Centre was painted and new soffit, facia and eavestrough were installed.

Grab Bag of Values

To encourage shopping while visiting the major facilities on the Parkway, a Grab Bag of Values was produced. Merchants and shopping district associations along the St. Clair Parkway provided coupons and leaflets which the Parkway staff placed in the bags and distributed to our guests.

Plant a Tree for Memory

During Spring, 1988, over 100 trees were planted along the Parkway. In addition to the regular planting, a new memorial tree programme, "Plant a Tree for Memory" was introduced. Donors may plant a tree in memory of a loved one in any of our parks. Our staff assists in the tree selection, location, planting and provides a pictorial pamphlet on the planting as a permanent keepsake.

The Parkway ST. CLAIR PARKWAY

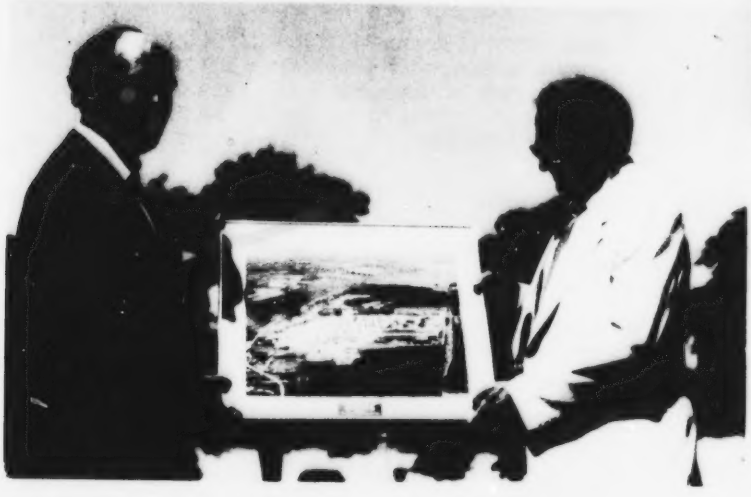
TRULY INCREDIBLE PARKWAY

It is a Team Effort

It is a committment to the team that all Tourism Professionals must make to provide "Incredible" services for our guest. To assist our staff in delivering an incredibly good experience to our guests, 100% of the Parkway staff attended the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, "We'll make You Feel Incredible" seminars. We are very proud to be a part of the Ontario Hospitality Network.

Tug - O - War

Our annual staff tug-o-war at Cathcart Park exemplifies our team effort and spirit. The victorious team this year from Marine Park worked together to tug the other teams into the channel at Cathcart Park.



Lambton Industrial Society Recognition

St. Clair Parkway Commission General Manager, Bob Harrison was honoured by the Lambton Industrial Society for his contribution to the local environment. On accepting the honour, Mr. Harrison commented that the fine work of the St. Clair Parkway Commission has set an example that encourages local plants to improve their frontages and appearances, "Improving the environment is more than reducing pollution - it's improving the quality of life".

History in the Making on the Parkway

Several runners carried the Olympic Torch along the St. Clair Parkway on its way to Calgary for the 1988 Winter Olympic games.

In October 1988 the Bluewater Bridge in Point Edward celebrated its 50th anniversary with a weekend full of activities.

The Parkway
ST. CLAIR PARKWAY

THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Financial Statements
for the year ended December 31, 1988

To The St. Clair Parkway Commission and
to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation.

I have examined the balance sheet of The St. Clair Parkway Commission as at December 31, 1988 and the statement of operations for the year then ended. My examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as I considered necessary in the circumstances.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Commission as at December 31, 1988 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements applied on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Toronto, Ontario
April 28, 1989

J.F. Otterman, F.C.A.,
Assistant Provincial Auditor.

THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Balance Sheet as at December 31, 1988

Assets	1988 $	1987 $
Current		
Cash	-	4,437
Accounts receivable	23,884	4,154
Grants receivable (note 2c)	4,086	-
Current portion of:		
Capital grants receivable (note 2a)	20,625	20,625
Loan receivable (note 3)	5,000	5,000
Inventories	54,559	55,093
Prepaid insurance	27,483	49,556
	135,637	138,865
Capital grants receivable (note 2a)	288,750	309,375
Loan receivable (note 3)	35,000	40,000
	459,387	488,240
Liabilities		
Current		
Bank overdraft	23,931	-
Accounts payable	79,726	64,917
Current portion of capital advances payable (note 2a)	20,625	20,625
Deferred revenue (note 4)	11,355	10,532
Deferred grant revenue (note 2c)	-	42,791
	135,637	138,865
Capital advances payable (note 2a)	288,750	309,375
Deferred grant (note 3)	35,000	40,000
	459,387	488,240

See accompanying schedules and notes to financial statements.

Approved on behalf of the Commission:

Chairman

General Manager

THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Statement of Operations
for the year ended December 31, 1988

	1988 $	1987 $
Revenue		
Operating revenues		
Golf course (Schedule 1)	754,942	713,592
Sarnia Bay Marina (Schedule 2)	514,733	518,924
Marine Park (Schedule 3)	416,817	370,805
Park and concession	98,638	86,940
Interest and other	16,564	16,129
	1,801,694	1,706,390
Grants		
Province of Ontario	755,991	623,372
City of Sarnia	185,797	163,297
County of Lambton	185,797	163,297
County of Kent	119,442	104,974
City of Chatham	39,814	34,992
Sombra Township	10,607	-
	1,297,448	1,089,932
	3,099,142	2,796,322
Expenditure		
Administrative and operating		
Salaries, wages and employee benefits	808,980	717,963
Park maintenance and concessions	151,713	134,252
Utilities	48,206	42,683
Machinery and equipment	27,121	42,602
Insurance	37,223	36,877
Office supplies and equipment	16,917	20,421
Commissioners' fees and expenses	14,934	9,197
Other	29,872	21,890
	1,134,966	1,025,885
Golf course (Schedule 1)	643,865	604,679
Sarnia Bay marina (Schedule 2)	416,796	404,962
Marine Park (Schedule 3)	417,290	358,562
	2,606,108	2,383,740
Capital improvements	486,225	402,234
	3,099,142	2,796,322

See accompanying schedules and notes to financial statements.

SCHEDULE 1

THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Schedule of Golf Course Operations for the year ended December 31, 1988

	1988 $	1987 $
Golf Course and Pro Shop		
Revenue - green fees	361,020	345,281
- golf cart rentals	106,886	100,922
- sale of pro shop merchandise	55,922	55,902
	523,828	502,105
Expense - salaries and wages	215,622	199,176
- maintenance	84,622	78,139
- administration	55,057	51,208
- furniture and equipment	45,975	49,099
- leasing of golf carts	37,657	41,862
- cost of merchandise sold	33,250	31,981
	472,183	451,465
Net income	51,645	50,640
Dining Room		
Revenue - sales	132,756	115,956
Expense - salaries and wages	56,564	48,196
- cost of sales	55,780	47,478
	112,344	95,674
Net income	20,412	20,282
Lounge		
Revenue - sales	98,358	95,531
Expense - cost of sales	36,450	35,602
- salaries and wages	22,888	21,938
	59,338	57,540
Net income	39,020	37,991
	111,077	108,913
Total revenue	754,942	713,592
Total expenses	643,865	604,679
Total net income	111,077	108,913

SCHEDULE 2

THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Schedule of Sarnia Bay Marina Operations for the year ended December 31, 1988

	1988 $	1987 $
Sarnia Bay Marina Operations		
Revenue - boat mooring	248,483	225,074
- gas and oil sales	127,131	162,538
- confectionery	9,922	9,263
- other	5,762	4,450
	391,298	401,325
Expense - cost of gas and oil sold	115,173	142,611
- salaries and wages	102,309	83,994
- administration	62,981	58,597
- maintenance	14,593	15,673
- cost of merchandise sold	8,164	7,176
- machinery and equipment	20,071	6,379
	323,291	314,430
Net income	68,007	86,895
Dining Room		
Revenue - sales	123,435	117,599
Expense - salaries and wages	49,102	48,150
- cost of sales	44,403	42,382
	93,505	90,532
Net income	29,930	27,067
	97,937	113,962
Total revenue	514,733	518,924
Total expenses	416,796	404,962
Total net income	97,937	113,962

SCHEDULE 3

THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Schedule of Marine Park Operations for the year ended December 31, 1988

	1988 $	1987 $
Marine operations		
Revenue - boat mooring, launching and rental	149,374	136,763
- gas and oil sales	132,738	121,771
- sale of merchandise	23,975	22,789
- other	5,038	5,038
	311,988	286,361
Expense - cost of gas and oil sold	117,454	110,104
- salaries and wages	100,921	87,285
- administration	48,843	41,094
- maintenance	24,036	24,503
- cost of merchandise sold	27,033	14,847
- machinery and equipment	1,068	1,600
	319,355	279,433
Net income (loss)	(7,367)	6,928
Campground		
Revenue - camping fees	59,258	44,528
Expense - salaries and wages	56,007	38,149
Net income	3,251	6,379
Dining Room		
Revenue - sales	45,571	39,916
Expense - salaries and wages	23,566	24,273
- cost of sales	18,362	16,707
	41,928	40,980
Net income (loss)	3,643	(1,064)
	(473)	12,243
Total revenue	416,817	370,805
Total expenses		
Total net income (loss)	(473)	12,243

THE ST. CLAIR PARKWAY COMMISSION

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1988

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles except for fixed assets and leases, which are accounted for as set out below.

(b) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or net realizable value, with cost determined on a first in, first out basis.

(c) Fixed assets

Fixed assets of the Commission consist of buildings, purchased and donated park lands, equipment and vehicles. The Commission charges all additions to fixed assets as expenditures in the year of acquisition.

(d) Leases

All lease payments are expensed as incurred because the Commission does not capitalize fixed assets.

2. GRANTS

(a) For capital expenditures, the Province of Ontario and the participating municipalities contribute 75 and 25 per cent of the funds needed, respectively. For land and major projects, the Province advances 100 per cent of funds, interest free, of which 25 per cent is repaid by the Commission from grants received from benefiting municipalities.

At December 31 1988, the Commission owed the Province and the municipalities owed the commission $288,750 for advances received for the development of the St. Clair Parkway Marine Park. Both are repayable at $20,625 per annum until and including the year 2003.

(b) For expenditures in excess of operating income the Province of Ontario and the participating municipalities contribute 50 per cent each.

(c) The difference between grant revenue on an accrual basis and grants actually received is recorded as either grants receivable or deferred grant revenue.

3. LOAN AND DEFERRED GRANT - DOVER TOWNSHIP

In March 1976, the Commission received a grant of $100,000 from the Province of Ontario which it loaned in March 1977, interest free, to Dover Township to assist the Township in constructing a water treatment plant. The loan is being repaid by the Township at $5,000 per annum until and including 1996. Because the original grant was not recognized as grant revenue, the annual payment is included in grants from the Province. The remaining balance is reflected as a deferred grant and a loan receivable.

4. DEFFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue results from the prepayment of golf memberships, marina docking fees and campground site reservations.

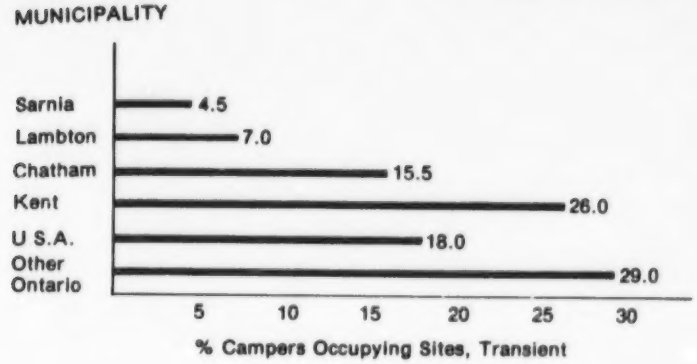
5. RENUMERATION OF APPOINTEES

The total renumeration of the members of the Commission was $7,385 during the year.

6. COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Comparative figures have been reclassified where necessary to conform with the 1988 presentation.

PARKWAY PROFILE

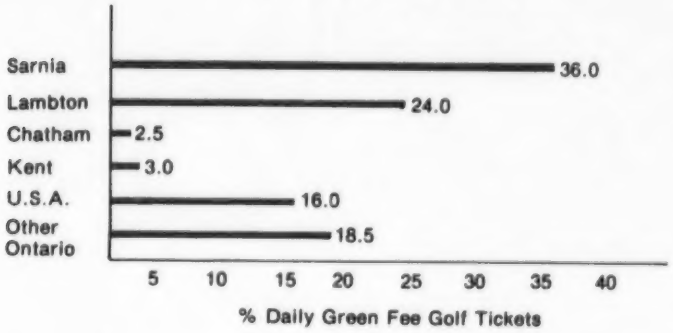


21,000 Parkway Campers In 1988

Locally Chatham and Kent residents represent the largest number of guest. This is true of the seasonal campers and transient campers shown in the opposite graph.

Many of our campers have travelled a distance to come to us, with the U.S. and other parts of the Province making very strong use of our campsites.

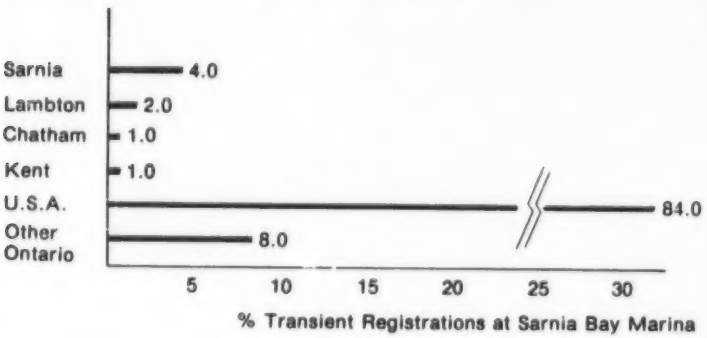
On the whole, our campers stay an average 2.75 nights and represent a party of 2.9 people per site. There were approximately 21,000 transient campers in 1988.



Every Six Minutes A Guest Tees Off

Over 21,500 rounds of golf were played in 1988 by our guests. Seasonal tickets were dominated by Lambton residents (76%) and Sarnia (23%).

Daily green fee golf players were also largely from Sarnia-Lambton. However, we do have a large number that are not from our region at all,34.5%.These guests were treated to a truly incredible round of golf at our championship course in Mooretown, Ontario.



3600 Boaters at Sarnia Bay Marina

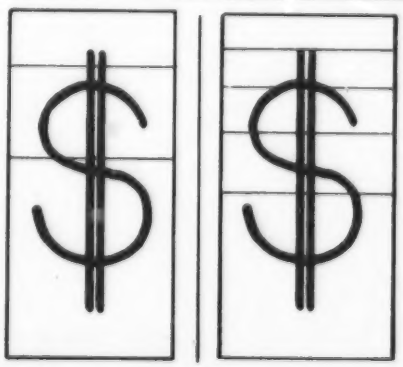
The transient boaters from the U.S. are the major share of the registrations at Sarnia Bay Marina. Many are repeat individuals and groups. Most groups book upon departure for the same weekend next year. Special weekends book in advance each year, Memorial Day, Mackinac Race, Canada Day, and the Highland Games.

Seasonal berths are occupied by Sarnia (50%), and Lambton (20%), and the U.S. (17%), and other Ontario (13%).

REVENUES

The Parkway has made great strides in generating more of its revenue each year. Following a good year in 1987, the 1988 season was even better with almost 60% of the revenue generated internally.

Funding Municipality		17.5¢
Sarnia	6.0¢	Grants
Lambton	6.0¢	
Kent	3.9¢	
Chatham	1.2¢	
Sombra	.4¢	
Province of Ontario		24.4¢
Parkway Generated		58.1¢



EXPENSES

Administration	9.2¢
Maintenance	12.9¢
Capital and Land Acquisition	15.7¢
cost of Goods Purchases	15.9¢
Personnel Services	46.3¢

The Parkway ST. CLAIR PARKWAY